The Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONC) is the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Agency designated to coordinate Federal health information technology (IT), including health IT and the certification programs of health IT software. ONC coordinates the quality standards for use by all Agencies, some of this under the Standards and Interoperability Framework and the Federal Health Architecture program. In addition, ONC works with the Federal and State policy and program teams to align the quality measurement, reporting, and clinical decision support across programs in support of a learning health system.

As we move toward Meaningful Use Stage 3(MU3), the Department of Health and Human Services Health Information Technology objectives transition from adoption of electronic health records (EHRs) to improved health outcomes via EHRs. Practice transformation and health IT enabled quality improvement requires both clinical decision support and quality measures operationalized through the use of electronic health records. The Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services is working toward measure alignment and harmonization across the Federal Government, States, and the private sector. The Office of the National Coordinator envisions an electronic health records quality improvement feedback loop in which performance on quality measures informs clinical decision support (CDS) at the point of care to more effectively improve performance on quality measures and ultimately outcomes.

The Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology provides strategic leadership in quality policy and program across the department, with States, and the private sector through participation in groups such as the Measures Application Partnership, the Institute of Medicine, the National Quality Forum, and Health Level 7. In addition, ONC instituted a certification program for quality measure reporting through health IT software that is used by multiple programs and the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. In partnership with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, the Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology led the Lean initiative through the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Entrepreneurs Program for multi-stakeholder public–private collaboration and process improvement to bring the best ideas from industry and the private sector to enhance the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' quality measurement and reporting enterprise.

The Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology will continue its coordination and leadership of the Federal Health Architecture, certification to quality standards of health IT software, and Lean quality measure process improvement. It will also continue its active participation with key public/private collaborations on quality—including the National Quality Forum, the Measures Application Partnership, and the Institute of Medicine's work on Value and Science Driven Health Care. In addition, it will provide leadership and technical assistance to States through collaboration with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, The State Improvement Group at the CMS Innovation Center, the State Health Information Exchanges and the popHealth open-source community. ONC is coordinating the data collection and reporting standards for HIV under the White House National HIV plan. The Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology will continue with its Standards & Interoperability Clinical Quality Framework and the coordination of standards use across the Federal quality programs.